722 Hitler started his Blitzkrieg against the Soviet Union on June 22, 1941, picking in the first few weeks rapid and easy victories. Then the front was drawn in central Estonia, along the Emajõgi River through Viljandi and Pärnu. This gave the Communists time to carry out their mobilization in northern Estonia and to ship men to the Soviet Union. The 33,000 mobilized men from northern Estonia were taken to timber camps in the northern USSR, where the majority of them died from ill treatment, inhuman working conditions and undernourishment. An Estonian corps was organized of the survivors in 1942.

725 Already at the outbreak of the war Estonian men who had sought refuge in forests formed partisan troops, called "Forest Brothers," who later played quite an important role in the war operations, helping to drive out the Soviets